



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

October 5, 2004

Ms. Rebecca A. Humphries, Director
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Executive Division
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Ms. Humphries:

Congratulations on your recent designation as one of the co-trustees for natural resources damage assessments and restoration for the State of Michigan!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is developing a claim for natural resource damage assessment costs for the Rouge River and Detroit River Mystery Oil Spill of April 2002 pursuant to §102(b)(2) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. We are inviting you, as one of the State co-trustees for natural resources to join us in making a claim for assessment costs and proceeding toward restoration of natural resources injured by this spill. Correspondingly, we also are inviting the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Attorney General to participate in this assessment and restoration process.

Federal and State investigators have not identified a responsible party for this spill, so we will be making a claim for natural resource damages to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The President, acting through the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center, is authorized to use the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to pay the claims of natural resource trustees for uncompensated natural resource damages in accordance with §1012 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

We believe that the public and their natural resources are best served by all of the natural resource trustees working together on assessment and restoration. We look forward to hearing from you as to whether your agency will participate in this claim or not. Because we intend to submit a claim to the U.S. Coast Guard by the end of this year, your response to this matter at your earliest convenience is appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Williams, of this office, at 517-351-8324.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and expeditious response to this matter.

Sincerely,

for Craig A. Czarnecki
Field Supervisor



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

November 29, 2004

Mr. Craig A. Czarnecki
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823-6316

Dear Craig:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2004, regarding the natural resource damage assessment for the Rouge River and Detroit River oil spill of April 2002. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you on this incident. We have responded to and incurred costs investigating damage to natural resources on the Rouge and Detroit Rivers and look forward to the opportunity to conduct a more thorough investigation. We also look forward to the opportunity to provide resource restoration or restitution from this incident.

Please contact Mr. Timothy Payne, the Wildlife Division Area Supervisor for southeast Michigan in the Livonia office, at 734-953-1496 or paynet@michigan.gov. Thank you for your inclusion of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director
517-373-2329

cc: Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR
Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource
Management Deputy, DNR
Mr. Douglas Reeves, DNR
Mr. Timothy Payne, DNR

____ Czarnecki
____ Beat
____ Brewer
____ Dandridge
____ DeCapita
____ Deloria
____ Dingledine
____ Bitnicar
____ Fisher
____ Gourley
____ Hosler
____ Kavetsky
____ Kubilis
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____ Pastva
____ Tansy
____ Williams

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters-Chair; Mary Brown; Bob Garner; Gerald Hall; John Madigan; Frank Wheatlake

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